

BOROUGH OF WIDNES



# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1950



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### 1950

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Widnes for 1950, and I am happy to report that the health of the Borough compares favourably with that of previous years.

The birth rate showed a slight increase, being 21.5 per 1,000 compared with 21.1 per 1,000 in 1949, and was still much higher than the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.8 per 1,000.

The crude death rate showed a slight increase, being 11.3 per 1,000 compared with 10.7 per thousand in 1949. This compares favourably with the death rate for England and Wales, which was 11.6 during 1950.

I am happy to report that the infant mortality rate has shown a further decrease; the rate being 51 per thousand live births compared with 53 in 1949, and 60 in 1948. There was one maternal death during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease was greater than during the previous year. There were 1191 cases notified, compared with 763 during 1949. The increase was due in the main to an increase in measles. There was a further reduction in the incidence of whooping cough and scarlet fever. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

There were 47 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified compared with 52 for the previous year, and 16 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with 15 in 1949. There was a marked decrease in the number of deaths from tuberculosis, there being 19 deaths from pulmonary and 3 from non-pulmonary, compared with 26 pulmonary deaths and 6 non-pulmonary deaths during the previous year.

In analysing the various causes of the deaths which occurred during the year, one is struck by the large number resulting from accidents of different kinds. A detailed summary can be found in the body of my report. Thirty deaths due to accident of various kinds amongst persons of all ages are recorded, and these figures should remind us of the dangers that are ever present in everyday life; in the home, in the workplace, or on the highways. It is true to say that a very large percentage of these deaths could

have been avoided. It is, however, not unsatisfactory to note that in spite of the numerous and complex industries in the town, with the many potential hazards, only two of the deaths previously referred to were classified as works accidents.

It is perhaps fitting in this report, when we stand midway through the century, to look back to the year 1900 and to try to assess what improvements have been achieved in Public Health during the past 50 years. A precis of the statistics for 1900 will be found in the statistical section of this report. The figures, when compared with those for the year under review, give a measure of the improvement that has been achieved during a comparatively short space of time. There is, however, no room for complacency as much still remains to be done, but the achievements of the past 50 years in both preventative and curative medicine should act as a challenge and as an incentive during the years to come.

It is impressive to reflect that whereas in 1900, 90.8 per cent. of all deaths occurred before 65 years of age, in 1950 only 44.8 per cent. of all deaths occurred before the same age. This increase in the longevity of the nation has brought its own peculiar problems and the care of the aged and infirm is becoming an increasing responsibility for a population which is itself rapidly ageing. The increase in the span of life is a doubtful blessing if it is not accompanied by happiness and security.

There has been a marked increase in the work carried out during the year by the Sanitary Department. The inspectors have visited 8,931 premises, an increase of over 70 per cent. compared with the previous year. There were 4,040 defects or nuisances discovered, an increase of 40 per cent over the previous year. Particular attention has been paid during the year to the supervision of ice cream and food premises to ensure that all commodities were prepared, stored and sold in a hygienic manner. Visits paid to these premises increased during the year by over 100 per cent. compared with the previous year. The department has also given every assistance to the Widnes Hygienic Food Traders' Guild, and in October a film show devoted to pictures dealing with food hygiene was held by the department in the Health Centre.

The unsatisfactory housing situation in Widnes, which I referred to in my last report, is still with us and remains the major public health problem in the Borough. As stated before the only complete solution to the present difficulty is the supply of more and yet more new houses.

At the end of the year a detailed survey of all houses in the Borough was reaching completion. The object being the assessment of the state of repair of all properties in order, amongst other things, that a list of those most needful of demolition or clearance could be prepared.

During the year 5,510 inspections were made and 2,478 houses inspected. Over 2,000 houses were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of express-



ing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, and in particular to Mr. E. F. Starkey, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health

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### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	40,619
„ Estimated, 1950	...	...	...	...	48,800
Density of Population (i.e. No. of persons per acre)	...				7.89
No. of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)	...	...	...		8,641
No. of Inhabited Houses (End of 1950 according to rate book)					12,760
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£254,270
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£1,000

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### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Number of Births: Males 545, Females 505	...	...	1,050
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	21.5
Number of Deaths: Males 303, Females 246	...	...	549
Death-rate per 1,000 of the Population	Crude	...	11.3
	Adjusted		14.1
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	501
Number of Deaths of Infants (under the age of one year)			54
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	51
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	7
Death-rate from Influenza per 1,000 of the population			.14
Death-rate from Cancer	...	...	1.7
Death-rate from Phthisis	...	...	.33
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	.93
Number of women dying in consequence of child birth—			
From Sepsis	...	...	—
Other Causes	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	4
Percentage of total Death occurring in Public Institutions	...	...	40.8

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION—

The population returns since 1861 are given below :—

Year	Population	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.0
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
Est. 1950	48,800	12,760	3.82

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1950 was 48,800. This is, therefore, an increase of 710 over the estimated population for 1949.

BIRTHS—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate ... ..	1,001	519	482	} Birth rate (R.G.) 21.5
Illegitimate ... ..	49	26	23	
Birth-rate for England and Wales ... ..				15.8

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS—

The percentage of births, which were illegitimate, during each of the past 15 years is as follows:—

1936 .....	2.5 per cent.	1943 .....	6.0 per cent.
1937 .....	3.1 per cent.	1944 .....	5.6 per cent.
1938 .....	2.4 per cent.	1945 .....	9.8 per cent.
1939 .....	2.4 per cent.	1946 .....	7.0 per cent.
1940 .....	4.7 per cent.	1947 .....	4.7 per cent.
1941 .....	4.1 per cent.	1948 .....	4.5 per cent.
1942 .....	5.2 per cent.	1949 .....	4.3 per cent.
1950 .....	4.5 per cent.		

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1950—

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1 — 5 years	5 — 15 years	15 — 25 years	25 — 45 years	45 — 65 years	65 — 75 years	Over 75 years
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	16	—	—	—	4	7	3	2	—
„ (other) ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Stomach ... ..	16	—	—	—	—	2	8	2	4
Lung, Bronchus ... ..	19	—	—	—	—	—	8	9	2
Breast ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1
Uterus ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	44	—	1	—	—	3	11	18	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	56	1	2	—	—	2	16	20	15
Coronary disease, Angina ...	56	—	—	—	—	1	20	25	10
Hypertension with heart disease	15	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	7
Other heart disease ... ..	96	3	—	—	—	2	26	28	37
Other circulatory disease ...	14	—	—	—	—	2	3	4	5
Influenza ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	24	9	3	—	—	—	2	6	4
Bronchitis ... ..	38	—	—	—	1	1	8	12	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	6	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases ... ..	66	26	—	—	—	3	4	13	20
Motor vehicle accidents ...	10	—	5	—	3	1	—	1	—
All other accidents ... ..	20	4	2	4	1	2	1	1	5
Suicide ... ..	5	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—
Homicide and War ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	549	54	15	5	12	32	128	162	141

# DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENT DURING 1950—

The following is a summary of the deaths due to accident during 1950, indicating the ages of the deceased.

CAUSE OF DEATHS	Under 1 yrs.	1—5 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	15—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total
Road traffic accidents ... ..	—	5	—	4	—	1	10
Falls ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Drowning ... ..	—	—	2	1	1	—	4
Works accidents ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Burns ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Overlaying and Asphyxia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rail traffic accident ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Unknown cause ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals in age groups ...	4	6	4	7	1	8	30

The following is a summary of the deaths of persons belonging to Widnes, which occurred in institutions during the year 1950:—

Widnes Accident Hospital ... ..	—
„ Convalescent Hospital ... ..	1
„ Maternity Home (Infants 4) ... ..	4
Whiston County Hospital (Infants 30) ... ..	171
St. Helens Isolation Hospital (Infants 2) ... ..	4
St. Helens Providence Hospital ... ..	2
Warrington Infirmary (Infants 1) ... ..	3
Warrington General Hospital (Infants 2) ... ..	7
Warrington Isolation Hospital ... ..	1
Winwick Hospital ... ..	1
Rainhill Hospital ... ..	5
Liverpool Northern Hospital ... ..	2
„ Royal Infirmary ... ..	2
„ Southern Hospital ... ..	4
„ Radium Institute ... ..	2
„ Belmont Road Hospital ... ..	1
Walton Hospital ... ..	3
Broadgreen Hospital ... ..	2
Aintree Hospital ... ..	2
Other Hospitals ... ..	7
Total ... ..	224



The following table summarises the Vital Statistics of the Borough :—

	Per 1,000 of Population			Per 1,000 Births		
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
Mean of 5 years—						
1945-1949	23.6	11.2	0.58	1.73	1.11	68
Year—						
1949	21.1	10.7	0.58	1.60	nil	53
1950	21.5	11.3	0.33	1.70	0.95	51
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average						
1945/49	—2.1	+0.1	—0.25	—0.03	—0.13	—17
Previous Year	+0.4	+0.6	—0.25	+0.10	+0.95	—2

The following are statistics taken from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1900 and from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the same year, and are shown together with comparative data relating to the year under review.

	1900	1950
Estimated population	32,000	48,800
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	31.21	21.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	20.09	11.3
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	206.2	51

	1900	1950
Deaths from Epidemic—Diarrhoea, Typhoid Fever and Gastro Intestinal Diseases	104	4
Deaths from Measles	41	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	20	1
Deaths from Diphtheria	10	—
Deaths from Scarlet Fever	7	—

	1900	1950
Deaths under 65 years of age—		
percentage of total	90.8	44.8

## INFANT MORTALITY

The causes of Deaths of Infants during 1950 are recorded in the following table.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	3	3	1	—	9
Congenital Defects ... ..	3	—	—	—	3	2	1	2	—	8
Congenital Debility ... ..	3	1	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	7
Digestive Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Premature Births ... ..	12	1	—	2	15	—	—	—	—	15
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Circulatory failure ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. (Non. pul.) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overlaying ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Other causes ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	6
Totals ... ..	21	2	—	2	25	14	9	6	—	54

It will be seen that the number of deaths among infants under one year was fifty-four. This represents an infant mortality rate of fifty-one per one thousand live births, which although considerably higher than what we have been aiming for, compares favourably with a rate of sixty-eight per thousand for the preceding five year period.

This is the fourth year in succession that a reduction in the infant mortality rate has occurred and it is hoped that not only will it be a continuing occurrence, but that the rate of decrease will show an acceleration.

It will be noted that as in previous years the chief group in the above table is the one relating to premature births. Other main groups being pneumonia and congenital defects. There were four deaths from gastro enteritis compared with six during the previous year.

Details concerning the fifty-four deaths recorded have been studied, and the following observations are made:—

DISTRIBUTION of infant deaths amongst the various Wards in the Borough:

Appleton	...	...	...	...	3
Ditton	...	...	...	...	4
Farnworth	...	...	...	...	2
Halton	...	...	...	...	5
Kingsway	...	...	...	...	8
Lowerhouse	...	...	...	...	11
Lugsdale	...	...	...	...	11
Woodend	...	...	...	...	10
Total					54

### HOME CONDITIONS

Dividing home conditions roughly into three categories — good, fair and poor, the distribution was as follows:-

Good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Poor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Among the 4 cases of enteritis investigated 2 were in good homes and 2 in poor.

### SOCIAL CATEGORIES:

The Registrar General has made a revision of the Social Categories which are as follows:—

- Class I — Professional etc., Occupations.
- Class II — Intermediate Occupations.
- Class III — Skilled Occupations.
- Class IV — Partly Skilled Occupations.
- Class V — Unskilled Occupations.

The distribution of deaths investigated are as follows:—

Class I	...	...	1
Class II	...	...	3
Class III	...	...	4
Class IV	...	...	21
Class V	...	...	25

Bacteriological Examinations—  
The number of specimens examined in 1950 was:—

Diphtheria.....	4	General.....	2
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The number of bacteriological examinations carried out in 1949 was 44.

DISEASE				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	95	72	—
Para-typhoid	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	13	—	24
						(all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	11	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	3	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	857	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	139	3	1
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	4	4	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	4	—	—
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary	...	M	.....	21	—	10
		F	.....	26	—	8
		Total	...	47	—	18
(b) Non-Pulmonary		M	.....	9	—	2
		F	.....	7	—	1
		Total	...	16	—	3



## (ii) ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS—

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												
	Years												
	Total Cases at all Ages Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet													
Fever	95	—	4	6	20	13	36	10	2	4	—	—	
Measles ...	857	46	105	155	200	142	204	3	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping													
Cough	139	15	15	31	28	20	29	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal													
Infection	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Para-typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	3	3
Erysipelas ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	3	3
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal													
Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Acute Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- myelitis	4	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food													
Poisoning	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1
Pulmonary T.B.													
M.	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	9	4	4	—
F.	26	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	16	1	2	1
Non-Pulmonary													
M.	9	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—
F.	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1
Totals	1191	64	125	196	250	176	273	24	14	37	9	14	9

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

## SCARLET FEVER—

Ninety-five cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the preceding five years were: 1945—289; 1946—240; 1947—88; 1948—99; 1949—150.

There were no deaths during the year and the cases were all of a mild type.

## ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS—

During the year four cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were notified. There were no deaths, but in each case some paralysis remained at the end of the year, requiring special treatment.

## DIPHTHERIA—

The following Table gives the incidence of this disease during the past 10 years :—

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths	Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1941	160	9	1946	19	0
1942	95	4	1947	4	0
1943	30	2	1948	0	0
1944	23	0	1949	2	0
1945	14	0	1950	0	0

None of the fatal cases recorded in the above Table had been immunised.

The low incidence of Diphtheria in the Borough is directly attributable to the high percentage of children who are immunised against diphtheria.

## TUBERCULOSIS—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during 1950 will be found in the following table:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.
Years								
Under 1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
1-4	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1
10-14	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	1	4	1	2	—	3	1	—
20-24	4	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
25-34	5	12	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-44	4	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
45-54	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
55-64	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
Totals	21	26	9	7	11	8	2	1
	47		16		19		3	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths over notified was 1/22.

During the year 4 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary cases were reported to have become quiescent, and a case previously notified was not confirmed.

The following table gives the incidence of tuberculosis during the past 30 years:—

Annual Average		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
		Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population	Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population
1920/1924	...	1.72	1.02	1.20	0.21
1925/1929	...	1.66	0.85	1.27	0.25
1930/1934	...	1.26	0.9	0.82	0.19
1935/1939	...	0.8	0.58	0.61	0.16
1940/1944	...	0.93	0.71	0.52	0.14
1945/1949	...	1.13	0.58	0.41	0.09
1950	...	0.96	0.38	0.32	0.06

There was again a slight decrease in notifications of tuberculosis, and whilst the position is still far from satisfactory, this decrease might well have been greater but for the attendance in Widnes during the year of the Mass Radiography Unit, whose findings have boosted the notifications of this disease.

The death rate for tuberculosis in the Borough is the lowest on record. The greater decrease in death rate over case rate is doubtless due to many cases which would formally have gone undetected until too late now being brought to light due to better health education of the public and to the activity of Mass Radiography Units etc. Modern advances in the treatment of tuberculosis, particularly by the latest anti-biotics have helped to play their part.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY—

In September, 1949, I received a communication from the Medical Director of the No. 2 Mass Miniature Radiography Unit suggesting that a survey be carried out in 1950.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding suitable accommodation but the Unit was eventually stationed at the Drill Hall, Peelhouse Lane.

Following is the result of the survey which was carried out from 29th June to 31st August, for which I am indebted to Dr. J Black, Medical Director of No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit.

	Male	Female	Total
Total number of miniatures taken ... ..	2,565	1,635	4,200
Number classified as 'Normal' ... ..	2,253	1,482	3,735
<hr/>			
'Abnormals':—			
Abnormalities of bony thorax and lungs	46	37	83
Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	27	9	36
Broncho Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	1
Consolidation of unknown cause ... ..	1	1	2
Bronchiectasis ... ..	1	2	3
Pulmonary Fibrosis (non-tuberculous)	39	9	48
Basal Fibrosis ... ..	9	1	10
Pleural Thickening ... ..	58	21	79
Cardio-vascular lesions, acquired ...	17	16	33
Miscellaneous (foreign bodies, etc.) ...	4	2	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			
(Active Primary)	1	1	2
"    (Inactive Primary)	62	33	95
"    (Active Post Primary)	8	5	13
"    (Inactive Post Primary)	36	13	49
Did not attend for large film ... ..	1	2	3
<hr/>			
Total No. of abnormalities ...	311	152	463
<hr/>			
Cases not yet diagnosed ... ..	1	1	2
<hr/>			
Number attended for large film ... ..	131	77	208
<hr/>			

It will be observed that there were 15 active tuberculous cases diagnosed and 49 cases were classified as inactive post primary.

The problem of inactivity is difficult. Many of those so classified now will be kept under Clinical supervision and some will flare up eventually and become active. So the figure must be regarded as provisional only.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### *WATER SUPPLY—*

The water supply of the Borough is obtained by pumping from deep wells in red sandstone formations. Eighty samples were examined by the Bacteriologist and three by the Analyst of the City of Liverpool and were found to be satisfactory.

In order to exclude from amongst employees of the Water Department the existence of carriers of excremental disease, I contacted the City Bacteriologist who agreed to carry out the necessary examination of specimens.

Six specimens of faeces and urine for examination for enteric organisms, and one specimen of blood for Widal reaction were submitted in respect of each man, over a period of four months.

In one instance a specimen of faeces showed the presence of *Shigella Sonnei* and the man concerned was given alternative duties and placed under the observations of his own doctor until certified to be free from infection.

### *CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—*

There are 42 privy middens but they are situated in the rural parts of the Borough and cannot be converted owing to the absence of adequate sewers. There are fourteen waste closets in existence, and it is calculated that 12,715 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

### *REFUSE REMOVAL—*

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Department, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are 12 dry ashpits and 30 ashpits attached to privies. The remaining houses in the Borough being provided with portable bins.

### *SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT—*

A record of the work of the Sanitary Department is as follows:—

Defects or Nuisances: No. Discovered	...	4,040
No. Abated	...	3,149
No. of Notices served: Informal	...	1,587
Statutory	...	504
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	...	67
...	...	8,931

Premises kept under observation	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories, sanitary accommodation	163	108
Bakehouses ... ..	20	62
Slaughterhouses ... ..	—	—
Milkshops ... ..	115	200
Food Premises ... ..	198	778
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	59	144
Common Lodginghouses ... ..	5	106
Tents and Caravans ... ..	4	18
Visits to premises where cases of Infectious diseases have occurred	166	328
No. of premises disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases ...	166	—

#### DISINFESTATION—

43 houses belonging to the Corporation and 86 private dwellings were treated during the year because of verminous infestation.

In addition householders are encouraged to carry out disinfestation and are supplied with suitable insecticides.

#### RODENT CONTROL—

Three whole-time rodent operatives until May and thereafter two, were employed by the Local Authority, and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended.

Premises	Number treated	Bait applied (lbs.)	Poison Bait applied (lbs.)	Estimated Destruction Rats Mice	Bodies found Rats Mice
Public Sewers	1325	582	132	1670	—
Manholes					108
Dwellinghouses	272	130	165	351	1440
Other Premises	91	325	212	1083	970
Council Tips	8	415	144	894	—
					260

During the year the department received 371 complaints; 204 were in respect of mice and 176 for rats. The premises concerned were, for mice: 8 factories, 30 shops, 158 dwellinghouses, 1 school, 3 other premises. For rats: 8 tips, 22 factories, 9 schools, 14 shops 114 dwellinghouses and 4 other premises.

A 100 per cent., and a partial treatment of sewers were carried out during the year. The work was executed on a block system

taking each ward of the Borough separately. Progress was plotted daily on a large scale map and records made which will be available for further treatment.

In co-operation with the Borough Engineer I was able to receive assistance from his Department whenever we encountered obstacles in the manholes or met with difficulty over the covers. The work throughout was supervised in co-operation with the Area Rodent Inspector.

#### *INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT—*

During the year every effort was made to reduce the amount of atmospheric pollution due to the emission of smoke from factories within the Borough. Close liaison was maintained during the year with H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works.

The average deposit for the whole of the Borough during 1950 is estimated at 242.26 tons per square mile. This is a decrease of 10.21 tons on the figures for the year 1949 when 252.47 tons per square mile was recorded.

There were 183 observations of factory smoke recorded and on 54 occasions (or 29.5 per cent.) the emissions were in excess of the permitted standard. This shows an increase over 1949 when 180 observations gave 46 (or 25.5 per cent) excessive emissions. Factory managements have been notified or were interviewed following each observation of black smoke above standard.

In the main, factory managements have endeavoured to co-operate with the department but much difficulty was experienced during the year as a result of unsuitable fuel and obsolete boiler plant, circumstances which were invariably beyond the power of the management to rectify as soon as they might wish.

#### *Measurement of Deposited Matter with the Deposit Gauge:—*

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall, during 1950 was as follows:—

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Convalescent Hospital	Halebank	Farnworth	Average Rainfall inches
January	31.55	10.19	14.45	10.87	8.82	.76
February	42.73	19.37	25.34	18.16	11.43	4.14
March	21.14	14.64	13.50	12.44	11.70	1.18
April	31.40	18.80	20.28	17.40	25.65	2.73
May	21.66	10.25	14.95	12.89	14.37	.88
June	32.81	12.53	21.66	20.70	16.56	2.12
July	29.06	14.71	17.41	13.37	20.12	2.11
August	30.25	9.25	23.21	21.45	23.13	4.36
September	37.05	17.87	22.81	27.20	48.51	4.42
October	30.96	12.00	15.02	13.69	12.14	2.03
November	41.71	18.24	22.70	18.77	14.47	4.39
December	37.88	14.54	15.80	15.02	14.72	2.95
Monthly average	32.35	14.37	18.88	16.82	18.47	2.67



*Measurement of Sulphur Dioxide with the Lead Peroxide Apparatus:*

The measurement in milligrams of SO<sub>3</sub> per day per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide during 1950 was as follows:

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Convalescent Hospital	Halebank	Farnworth
January	45.4	30.4	30.1	—	—
February	46.9	25.4	34.0	20.5	19.0
March	36.5	33.1	27.6	17.7	19.7
April	30.4	19.0	19.9	9.5	13.7
May	31.1	18.4	13.6	23.0	10.5
June	24.9	12.3	17.3	6.9	9.4
July	24.7	11.6	15.2	12.3	11.0
August	30.3	13.1	17.3	7.8	11.9
September	35.7	12.9	26.1	6.0	13.8
October	39.5	18.1	28.5	13.7	17.8
November	43.2	19.1	36.0	16.7	18.8
December	44.2	28.6	27.5	19.9	17.2
Monthly Average	36.0	20.1	24.4	11.9	13.5

In order to obtain a true picture of the extent of pollution two further stations have been brought into operation; one at Halebank and the other in the Farnworth area. There are now 5 stations within the Borough each equipped with a Standard Deposit Gauge for the estimation of deposits and a Lead Peroxide Gauge for the determination of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

A Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus situated at the Health Centre are in daily use from which recordings are made in milligrams per cubic metre of smoke and sulphur dioxide. In addition the following weather details are taken daily and recorded: wind direction and velocity, maximum and minimum shade temperature, humidity and barometric pressure.

The Consultative Smoke Abatement Committee, composed of three members of the Health Committee together with representatives from factory managements, gas and electricity undertakings, women's associations, Ministry of Fuel and Power in an advisory capacity and H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works, held three meetings during the year and paid a visit to one of the larger factories. The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector on efforts made to reduce pollution was presented at each meeting and discussed by the Committee.

An effort was made to again hold classes in Boiler House Practice for factory personnel. Management of each factory was circularised but the scheme could not be proceeded with owing to lack of interest shown by employees.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY—

The number of milk dealers other than cow-keepers on the register was 104. 22 Dealers Licences for the distribution of T.T. milk, 47 for the distribution of Pasteurised Milk and 95 for the distribution of Sterilised Milk were issued. One Pasteuriser's Licence and one Supplementary Licence were also issued.

112 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Liverpool City Bacteriologist for examination. This was 11 more than the previous year. 6 were found to be unsatisfactory under the Methylene Blue Test, while 5 when submitted to the Phosphatase Test were reported to be insufficiently heat treated. These adverse results, which were considerably less than for the previous year, were reported to the Area Milk Officer.

During the year 80 samples of Milk were taken and submitted to the Liverpool City Analyst. This figure included 39 formal samples including 6 "appeal to cow" samples and 41 informal samples. The results of the analysis proved the milk to be generally of a high standard. Six formal and two informal samples were however adjudged to be slightly below the requisite standard though not sufficiently below to justify legal action.

### (b) ICE CREAM—

Departmental records show that during the year the manufacture and sale of ice-cream was carried out from 59 premises. There were 7 manufacturers but only one firm produced on a large scale. The conditions obtaining in these premises were found, upon inspection, to be satisfactory, and the appropriate sections of the Food and Drugs Act were strictly enforced. Dealers and manufacturers were always ready to co-operate with the Sanitary Inspectors to ensure that only wholesome ice-cream was produced and distributed. It is noteworthy that the only unsatisfactory samples of ice-cream manufactured in the Borough were attributable to two dealers who subsequently ceased manufacture and carried on their businesses as distributors only. In the case of other unsatisfactory samples manufactured outside the Borough, the facts were reported to the Medical Officer of Health of the district of origin of the ice-cream.

Thirty samples of the finished product were bacteriologically examined and classified as follows:

Grade 1	—	5 samples	Grade 2	—	16 samples
Grade 3	—	7 „	Grade 4	—	2 „

Twenty-six further samples were examined by the Liverpool City Analyst for the estimation of sugar and fat content, and although in 1950 no official standard obtained results of samples taken were on the whole highly satisfactory.

During the year particular attention was directed to the cleanliness of road vehicles, and to the equipment carried to ensure that the salesman in charge was able to maintain a reasonably high standard of personal cleanliness. Vehicles were generally clean and carried the necessary fitments though it was sometimes necessary to warn owners to ensure that their salesmen were

making full use of such fitments, i.e. carrying hot water, clean towels, etc. A vast improvement in this direction was displayed in several tricycles used within the Borough during the year, the construction of which included compartments providing complete facilities for personal cleanliness of the salesman and for cleansing utensils, and including an overall dust excluder.

#### FOOD PREPARATION—

During the course of the year 976 visits were made to premises where food is stored, prepared and sold. This figure includes a far greater number of re-visits than was possible the previous year. It was necessary to serve notices in 22 instances where the conditions did not comply with the Food and Drugs Act 1938. These notices were all complied with.

Systematic inspections were made of street trading and food delivery vehicles. In some instances the condition of the vehicles was unsatisfactory and representations were made to the owners concerned. There was, however, a definite improvement in this sphere and a reasonably high standard is now apparent.

Regular inspections were also carried out of food stalls in the Borough Market, which apart from fish, fruit and vegetable stalls, are contained in the enclosed market. These stalls were maintained in a clean condition and no contraventions were found.

There were only four cases of food poisoning notified during the year and these were isolated cases of a mild nature and not directly attributable to any particular food commodity. The low incidence of food poisoning, which is a notifiable disease, must largely be attributed to the clean handling and storing of food which is continually being urged by this Department, through its Inspectors and by close co-operation with the Widnes Hygienic Food Traders' Guild.

#### (d) OTHER FOODSTUFFS—

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year were as follows:—

57 tins of fruit, 60 tins of vegetables, 6 tins tomatoes, 23 tins soup, 57 tins beans in tomato, 26 tins fish, 87 tins evaporated milk, 40 tins of condensed milk, 200 tins codsroe, 2 tins gravy, 40 tins meat, 3 tins pork, 1 tin boiled ham, 39 tins spaghetti, 9 tins pudding, 98lb. dried figs, 18lb. cereals, 5lb. dates, 11lb. macaroni, 6lb. cake, 4lb. pork brawn, 134lb. cheese, 54lb. bacon, 44lb. minced beef, 27lb. flour, 6lb. mixed peel, 10lb. biscuits, 46lb. sugar, 7lb. ginger, 13lb. prunes, 1 jar honey, 2 jars sauce, 105 jars jam, 3 jars chutney, 26 jars pickles, 21 jars malt extract, 6 jars pickled walnuts, 9 packets salt, 8 cartons spread, 15 dozen eggs.

The following samples were examined by the Liverpool City Analyst:—

Milk ... ..	80	Fish Cakes ... ..	2
Ice-cream ... ..	26	Cooking oil—	
Sugar ... ..	1	potato crisps ... ..	2
Beef Sausage ... ..	5	Tap Water ... ..	2
Pork Sausage ... ..	1	Potato Crisps ... ..	1



## HOUSING

### *Number of New Houses erected during the year—*

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
(i) By the local authority—Traditional permanent houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

### *Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—*

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,487
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							5,110
2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							35
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,194

### *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	534
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### *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

#### (a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1,542
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	291
(b) By local authority in default of owners						Nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	—	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	4	
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	—	

*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding—*

(a)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	354	
(b)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	141	
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases		732	



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Notices Written (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	27	11	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	136	97	7	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers premises).	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ... ..		163	108	7	—	

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9	1	1	—	1	—	9
(a) insufficient ... ..	10	4	4	—	4	—	10
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	2	2	—	—	—	11
(c) not separate for sexes ...							
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home- work) ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ... ..	60	7	7	—	5	—	60



